MARVEL
#4
cullen BUNN · iban COELLO · matt YACKEY
VENOMVERSE
MARVEL
INHUMANS
A MARVEL TELEVISION SERIES
abc SEPT 29
delgado

*WHEN SPIDER-MAN DISCREDITED ONE OF HIS STORIES, REPORTER EDDIE BROCK LOST EVERYTHING – EXCEPT A BURNING HATRED FOR THE WALL-CRAWLER. AFTER BONDING WITH A SENTIENT AND AGGRESSIVE ALIEN THAT SHARED A SIMILAR DISDAIN OF SPIDER-MAN, THE TWO BECAME THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED* VENOM

# VENOMVERSE

*VENOM HAS BEEN DRAFTED INTO A BATTLE AGAINST A MYSTERIOUS EXTRATTERSTRAIL SPECIES CALLED* ***POISONS****, WHO HAVE BEEN HUNTING DOWN SYMBIOTIC HEROES AND STEALING THEIR ABILITIES.*

*WITH THE AID OF DOCTOR STRANGE, CAPTAIN AMERICA FORMED A SMALL RESISTANCE AND SUMMONED HEROIC VENOMS FROM ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE, BUT WAS CAPTURED AND TURNED AFTER A POISON AMBUSH – THE FIRST OF SEVERAL RECENT CASUALTIES, INCLUDING SPIDER-MAN AND DEADPOOL. WITH THEIR NUMBERS DWINDLING AND DOCTOR STRANGE GROWING WEAKER WITH EVERY SUMMONING, THE RESISTANCE MADE A HAIL MARY PLAY AND USED STRANGE'S REMAINING MAGIC TO SUMMON THE SERIAL KILLER* ***CARNAGE****.*

*CARNAGE HAS PROVEN TO BE AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON AGAINST THE POISONS, BUT WASN'T ENOUGH TO STOP THEM FROM KIDNAPPING DOCTOR STRANGE IN THEIR LATEST ASSAULT!*

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WRITER
**CULLEN BUNN**

ARTIST
**IBAN COELLO**

COLOR ARTIST
**MATT YACKEY**

LETTERER
**VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA**

COVER ARTISTS
**NICK BRADSHAW & EDGAR DELGADO**

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
**CLAYTON CRAIN; MARK BAGLEY, ANDREW HENNESSY & JASON KEITH, ELIZABETH TORQUE**

ASSISTANT EDITOR
**ALLISON STOCK**

EDITOR
**DEVIN LEWIS**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
**NICK LOWE**

EDITOR IN CHIEF
**AXEL ALONSO**

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
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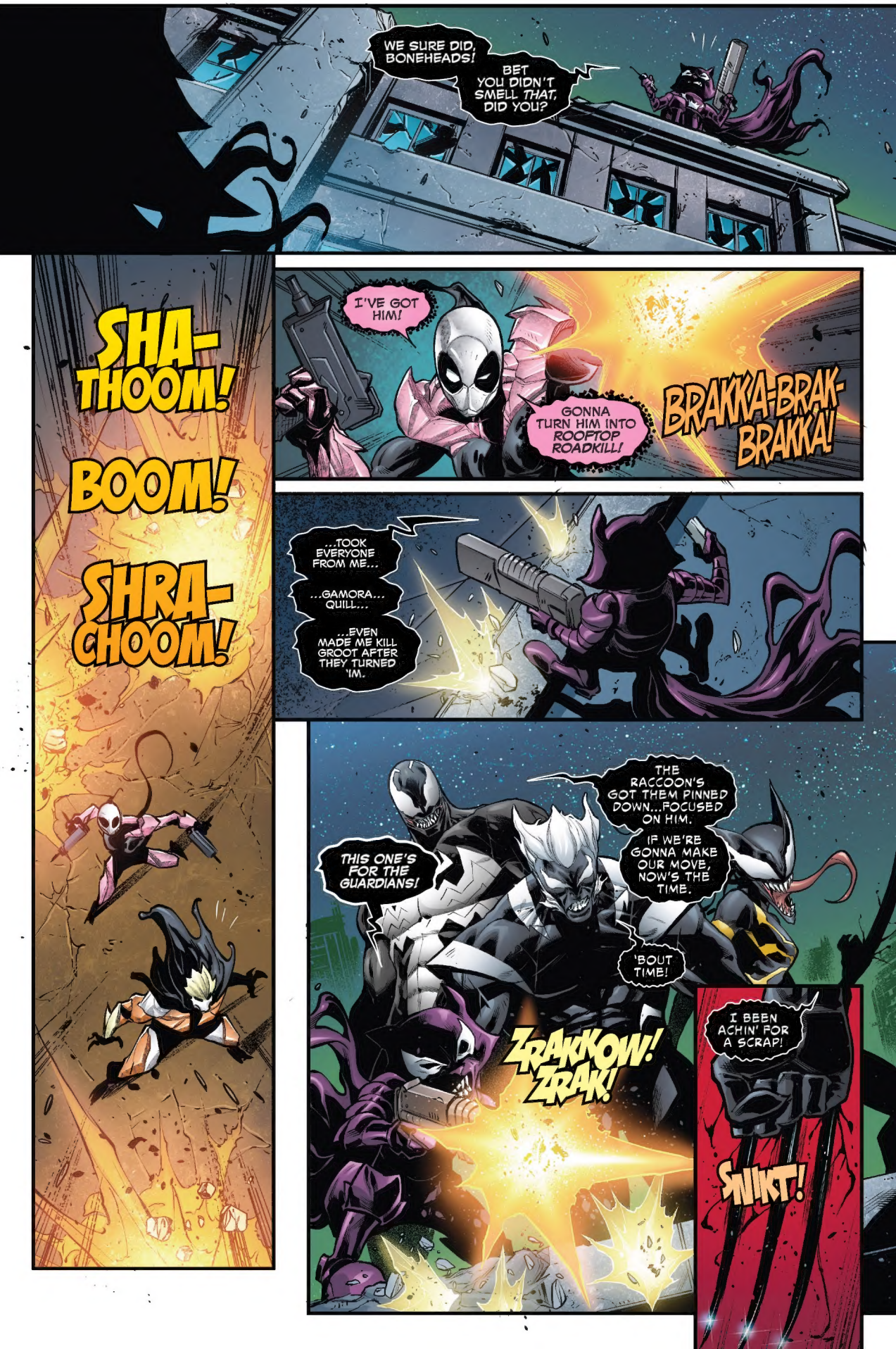
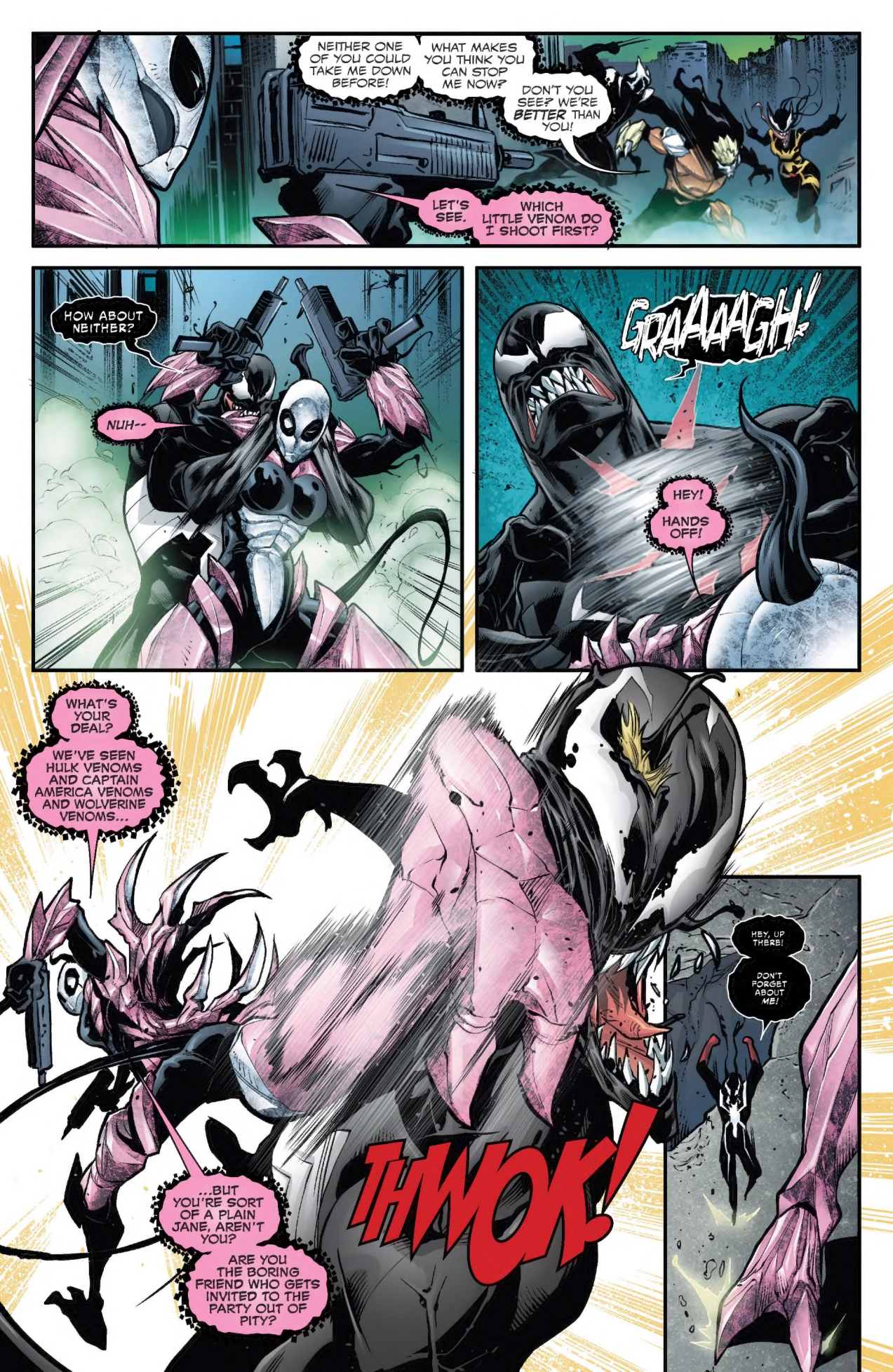
THEY'RE NEARBY.
I CAN SMELL THEM.
SYMBIOTES.
IT'S CUTE.
THEY KEEP HIDING FROM US...AND WE KEEP FINDING THEM.
SNFF! SFXX!
KRUNCH
BEEEI
SHRA-BOOM!
STAY ALERT! THEY'VE MINED THE STREETS!
YA THINK?!


WE SURE DID, BONEHEADS!
BET YOU DIDN'T SMELL THAT, DID YOU?
SHA-THOOM!
BOOM!
SHRA-CHOOM!
I'VE GOT HIM!
GONNA TURN HIM INTO ROOFTOP ROADKILL!
BRAKKA-BRAK-BRAKKA!
...TOOK EVERYONE FROM ME...
...GAMORA... QUILL...
...EVEN MADE ME KILL GROOT AFTER THEY TURNED 'IM.
THE RACCOON'S GOT THEM PINNED DOWN...FOCUSED ON HIM.
IF WE'RE GONNA MAKE OUR MOVE, NOW'S THE TIME.
THIS ONE'S FOR THE GUARDIANS!
'BOUT TIME!
ZRAKKOW! ZRAK!
I BEEN ACHIN' FOR A SCRAP!
SNIKT!

RRRAAAGH!
OH, LOOK!
OLD MAN RUNT AND HIS GRANDDAUGHTER WANT TO PLAY!
SHRAKT!
HHT!
NICE TRY, GIRL.
YOU HAVE SPIRIT.
WE WILL TAKE THAT FROM YOU, CLAIM IT FOR THE HIVE.
YEARRGH!
YOU WERE ALWAYS A WORTHLESS MONGREL, CREED!
BUT NOT EVEN YOU DESERVE THIS!
WE'RE PUTTING YOU DOWN.
SLGGHK!


NEITHER ONE OF YOU COULD TAKE ME DOWN BEFORE!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME NOW?
DON'T YOU SEE? WE'RE BETTER THAN YOU!
LET'S SEE.
WHICH LITTLE VENOM DO I SHOOT FIRST?
HOW ABOUT NEITHER?
NUH--
GRAAAAGH!
HEY! HANDS OFF!
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?
WE'VE SEEN HULK VENOMS AND CAPTAIN AMERICA VENOMS AND WOLVERINE VENOMS...
...BUT YOU'RE SORT OF A PLAIN JANE, AREN'T YOU?
ARE YOU THE BORING FRIEND WHO GETS INVITED TO THE PARTY OUT OF PITY?
THWOK!
HEY, UP THERE!
DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME!

GIANT-SIZED ANT-VENOM!
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT KIND OF GAME ARE YOU PLAYING?
ARE YOU ALL JUST SO TIRED OF RUNNING AND HIDING?
SOME KIND OF SUICIDE RUN?
OH, YEAH.
SHE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
ALL RIGHT.
THEN WE'VE GOT WHAT WE NEED.
DO YOUR THING, BIG RED!
HNN--
LANDMINES AIN'T THE ONLY THING THEY PLANTED IN THE GROUND, BABY!

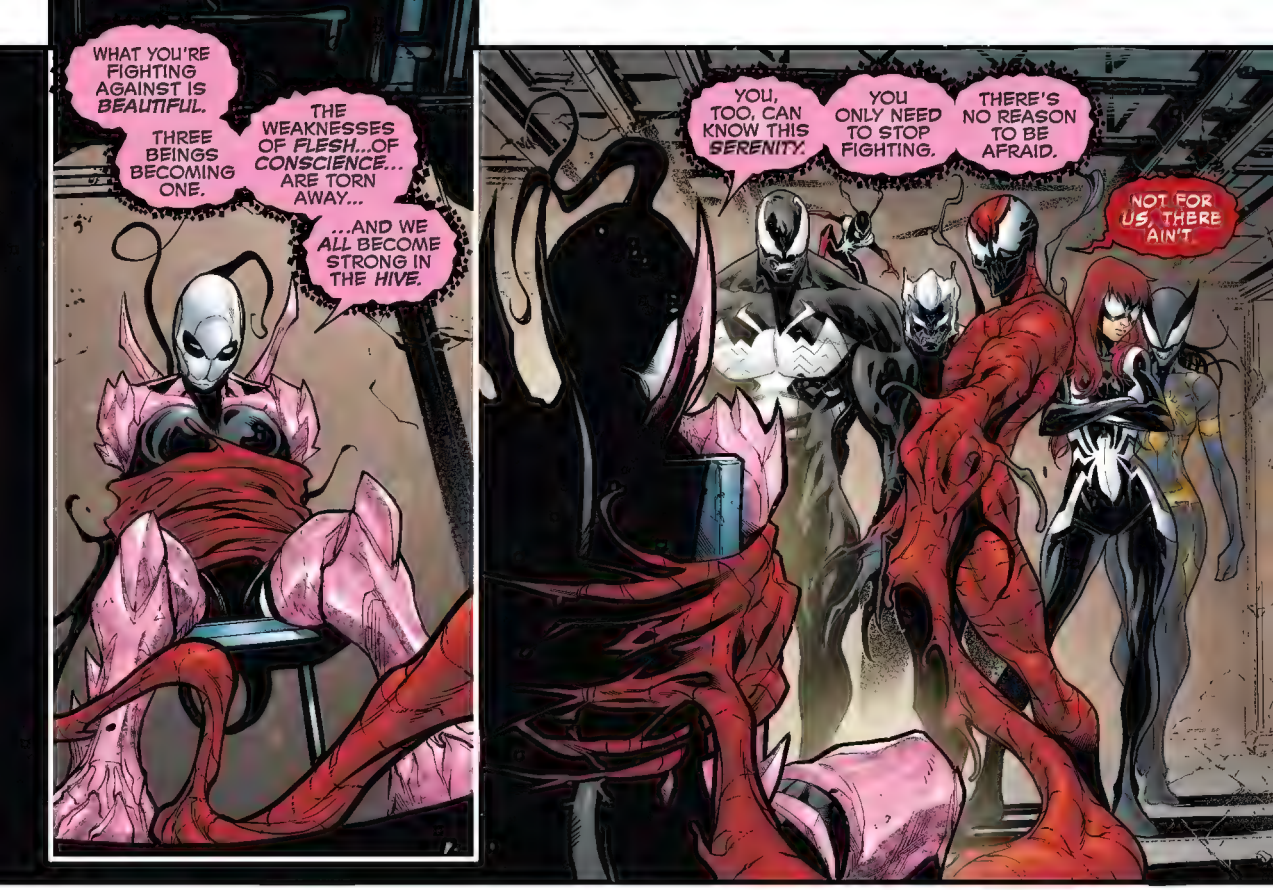
I'M THE ATOM BOMB!
SO, YOU'RE THEIR ACE IN THE HOLE.
HERE'S THE THING ABOUT SECRET WEAPONS.
ONCE THEY'VE BEEN REVEALED, THEY'RE NOT NEARLY SO DEADLY.
YOU KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT...
...YOU MIGHT EVEN START TO BELIEVE IT!
GET OUT OF MY WAY, DAD!
STOP PLAYING!
FINISH HIM OFF!
HEY--IF I CAN'T ENJOY MY WORK, WHAT'S THE POINT?
RRRAAAAGH!

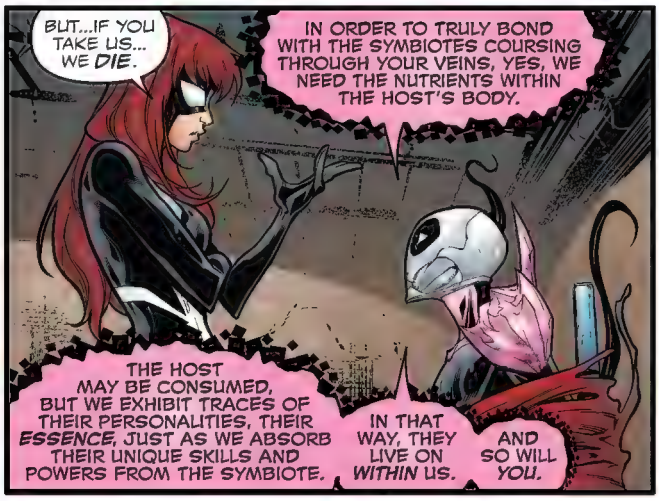
GONNA GRANT YOUR DEATH WISH.
BECAUSE WHO NEEDS YOU?
PRETTY SOON, WE'LL BE ABLE TO SUMMON ALL THE SYMBIOTES WE'LL EVER--
AH, SHADDUP.
ZRAKKA!
ZRAK!
ZRAK!
NYARRRGH!
THAT WAS MY KILL.
YOU PROMISED!
EASY, CLETUS. THERE'RE PLENTY MORE POISONS WHERE HE CAME FROM.
A BUNCH OF SPOILSPORTS, THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE.
SLLLLSSH!

I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND...
...ONCE THEY'RE ALL GONE...
...YOU JOKERS ARE NEXT.
WE'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING WE NEED YOU RIGHT NOW.
AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT.
I GOTTA ADMIT...
...IT FELT NICE TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM FOR A CHANGE.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, KID.
HEY, GUYS.
CAN I PUT GWEN DOWN NOW?
CAN I PASS HER OVER TO YOU?
BH?
THOUGHT I SENSED SOMETHIN'.
LET'S GET SOME COVER.
THERE MIGHT BE MORE POISONS OUT THERE.
AND I DON'T WANT THEM INTERRUPTING US...

"...BEFORE WE FIND OUT WHERE THEY'RE ALL COMING FROM."
SCARLET WITCH.
WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING ME?
LORD DOOM.
HAVE WE MADE HEADWAY WITH THE MAGICIAN?
WE HAVE.
DOCTOR STRANGE IS WEAKENING.
I CAN FEEL HIS DEFENSES COMING UNDONE.
IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE BREAKS.
YES, TIME.
FOR SO LONG OUR SPECIES WAS SO PITIFUL...SO FEEBLE... NOTHING BUT QUARRY FOR MORE POWERFUL BEINGS.
BUT, WITH STEPHEN'S HELPING HAND, WE FOUND THE WEAPONS OF OUR ASCENSION.
IN TIME, WE WILL HAVE MORE POWER THAN WE COULD EVER DREAM...

"...AND WE WILL NEVER BE PREY AGAIN."
LOOKOUT DUTY STINKS, RIGHT?
THERE ARE WORSE WAYS TO SPEND ONE'S TIME.
MEH. I GUESS.
BEFORE DOCTOR STRANGE PULLED YOU INTO THIS WORLD...THIS FIGHT...WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU REMEMBER?
I WAS TAKING PART IN A GLOBAL PEACE SUMMIT.
I WAS PLANNING TO PRESENT A NEW ACCORD MY PEOPLE HAD BEEN DEVELOPING.
AND YOU?
IN SCHOOL DETENTION.
AND NOW WE'RE TOGETHER-- THE KING AND THE BURNOUT...
...KEEPING WATCH SO THE BIG, BAD POISONS DON'T SNEAK UP ON US AND EAT US.
YES.
LOOKOUT DUTY DOES TRULY STINK.
"IT'S TRAGIC, REALLY. NONE OF YOU GET IT, DO YOU?"

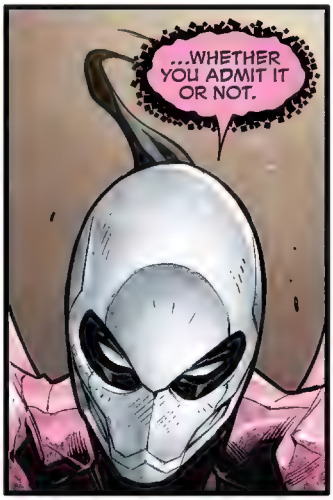

WHAT YOU'RE FIGHTING AGAINST IS BEAUTIFUL.
THREE BEINGS BECOMING ONE.
THE WEAKNESSES OF FLESH...OF CONSCIENCE... ARE TORN AWAY...
...AND WE ALL BECOME STRONG IN THE HIVE.
YOU, TOO, CAN KNOW THIS SERENITY.
YOU ONLY NEED TO STOP FIGHTING.
THERE'S NO REASON TO BE AFRAID.
NOT FOR US, THERE AIN'T.


BUT...IF YOU TAKE US... WE DIE.
IN ORDER TO TRULY BOND WITH THE SYMBIOTES COURSING THROUGH YOUR VEINS, YES, WE NEED THE NUTRIENTS WITHIN THE HOST'S BODY.
THE HOST MAY BE CONSUMED, BUT WE EXHIBIT TRACES OF THEIR PERSONALITIES, THEIR ESSENCE, JUST AS WE ABSORB THEIR UNIQUE SKILLS AND POWERS FROM THE SYMBIOTE.
IN THAT WAY, THEY LIVE ON WITHIN US.
AND SO WILL YOU.

YOU CALL US POISONS. BUT THAT IS A NAME THAT COMES FROM FEAR.
WE ARE THE PERFECT HOSTS FOR THE KLYNTAR. THROUGH CONSUMING YOUR PHYSICAL BODIES AND BONDING WITH THE SYMBIOTES, WE SILENCE THEM. QUELL THE CHAOS OF YOUR TWO MINDS VYING FOR CONTROL.

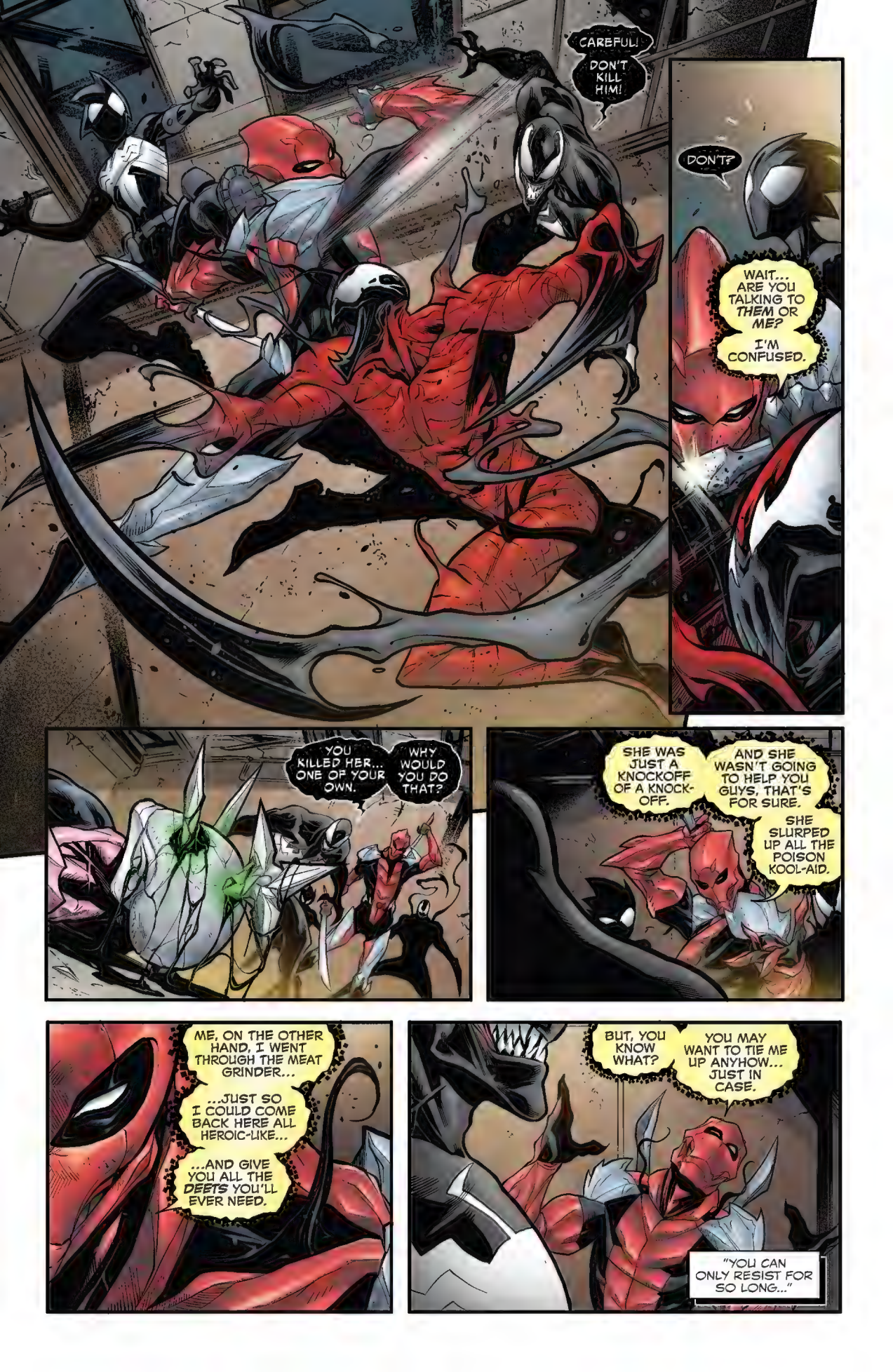
TRUE SYMBIOSIS. UNION.
WHEN THEY BOND WITH US, THEY BECOME APEX PREDATORS.

AND DEEP DOWN, THAT IS WHAT EVERY VENOM WANTS...


...WHETHER YOU ADMIT IT OR NOT.

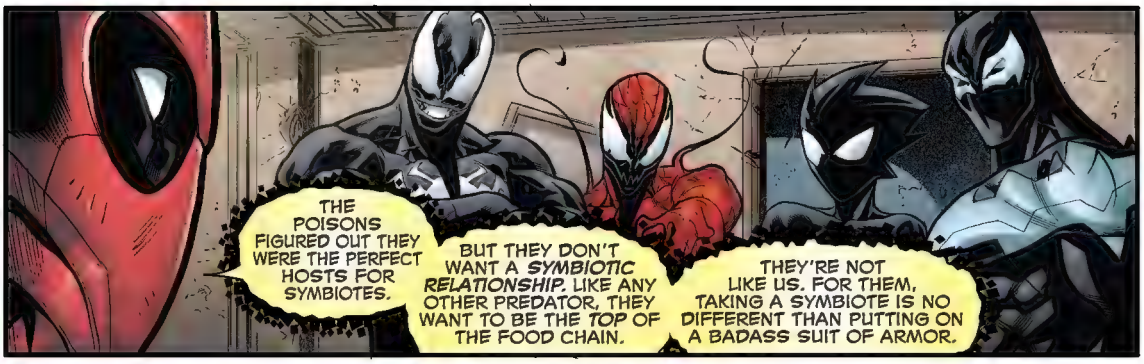
THE POISONS HAVE A LAIR SOMEWHERE.
WHERE DO WE FIND THEM?
TELL US WHERE YOU'RE ALL COMING FROM!
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T.
YOU BETTER START TALKING QUICK, GIRL
I'M GETTING REAL ANTSY, AND IF YOU AREN'T USEFUL, I MIGHT GUT YOU.
YOUR THREATS ARE POINTLESS.
THIS GOES BEYOND LOYALTY AS YOU UNDERSTAND IT.
I WOULD NEVER BETRAY THE HIVE.
BUT YOU'RE ONLY HUNTING OUR SPECIFIC SYMBIOTES.
WHY NOT OTHERS?
YOU KRATOONS DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO CONSUME CARNAGE.
THAT'S A RIDE THEY WOULDN'T SURVIVE, RODENT.
WE TAKE WHAT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO US.
AS FOR THE CARNAGE ENTITY, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT YET.
BUT WE WILL. SOON.

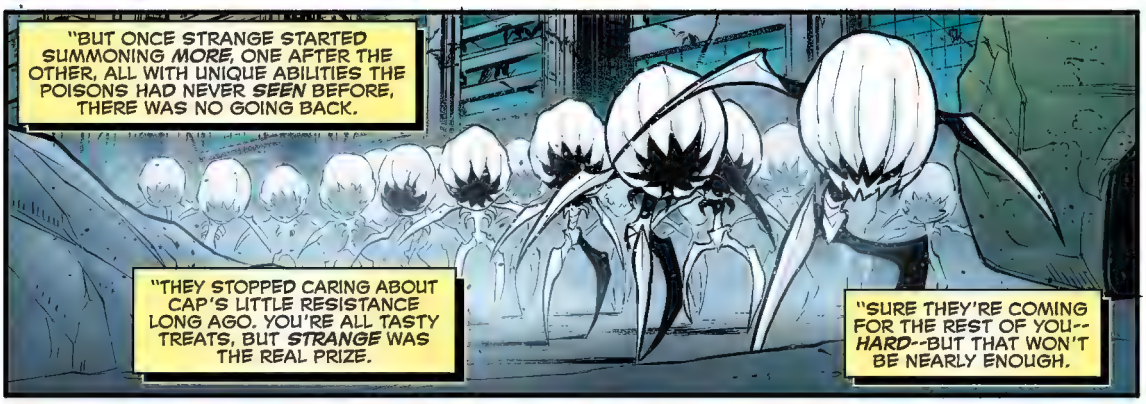
CHOK!
CH-CHOK!
CHOK!
DEADPOOL!
HEY, GANG!
MISS ME?
WE TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT HE'S BEEN TURNED!
HE'S... STRONG!
GETTING REAL TIRED OF CLAIM JUMPERS TAKING MY KILLS!
GONNA TAKE THAT ONE OUT OF YOUR HIDE!


CAREFUL!
DON'T KILL HIM!
DON'T?
WAIT... ARE YOU TALKING TO *THEM* OR *ME*?
I'M CONFUSED.
YOU KILLED HER... ONE OF YOUR OWN.
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
SHE WAS JUST A KNOCKOFF OF A KNOCK-OFF.
AND SHE WASN'T GOING TO HELP YOU GUYS, THAT'S FOR SURE.
SHE SLURPED UP ALL THE POISON KOOL-AID.
ME, ON THE OTHER HAND, I WENT THROUGH THE MEAT GRINDER...
...JUST SO I COULD COME BACK HERE ALL HEROIC-LIKE...
...AND GIVE YOU ALL THE *DEETS* YOU'LL EVER NEED.
BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT?
YOU MAY WANT TO TIE ME UP ANYHOW... JUST IN CASE.
"YOU CAN ONLY RESIST FOR SO LONG..."

WOULDN'T IT BE SO MUCH EASIER TO JUST GIVE IN?
YOUR STRUGGLES ARE SO PAINFUL.
AND YOU KNOW THAT EVENTUALLY WE WILL TAKE WHAT WE WANT ANYWAY.
I...KNOW... NO SUCH THING.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT, DOC.
THIS IS A GOOD THING. ONCE YOU'RE WITH THEM...YOU'LL BE AT PEACE.
THERE'S UNITY IN THE HIVE, STEPHEN.
WE DON'T RESENT YOU FOR SUMMONING US TO THIS WAR. WE SHOULD THANK YOU.
SURRENDER. BECOME ONE OF US.
THAT IS THE FIRST STEP IN ENDING THIS CONFLICT.
DECEIVERS.
YOU WANTED ME TO SUMMON SOLDIERS TO FIGHT YOU...AND I WAS BLINDED BY MY OWN HUBRIS AND FEAR.
BUT I'LL NOT SERVE UP ANOTHER SYMBIOTE FOR YOUR APPETITES.
YOUR SPECIES WILL HAVE TO BE HAPPY WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, BECAUSE YOU'LL NOT GET ANOTHER.
I WONDER... DO POISONS RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS?
WILL JEALOUSY REAR ITS HEAD?
WILL YOUR SPECIES TEAR ITSELF APART?
NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK, STRANGE...
...YOU WILL SERVE US...

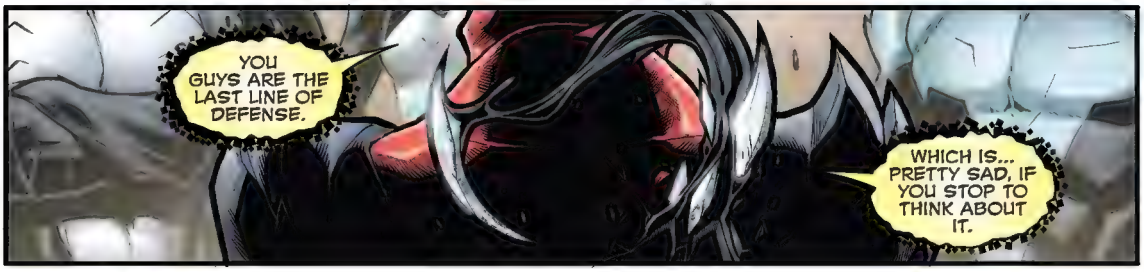
"...AND YOU WILL BRING MORE SYMBIOTES TO OUR FEEDING GROUND."
HMM.
TYING ME DOWN WITH LONG, SPINDLY CARNAGE TENTACLES.
EFFECTIVE.
GROSS...BUT EFFECTIVE.
IT'S GOOD. NICE AND TIGHT.
I'M NOT SURE HOW FREQUENTLY...OR FOR HOW LONG... I CAN STAY IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.
HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE FIGHTING OFF THE POISON'S CONTROL?
I NOTICED THAT SPIDEY... WHEN HE WAS CONSUMED...HELD ONTO A FEW SHREDS OF HIS PERSONALITY.
I BANKED ON MY BRAND OF CRAZY, I GUESS.
YOU SACRIFICED YOURSELF...
...SO YOU COULD BE A SPY?
I KNOW! I'M SURPRISED TOO.
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD OUT FOR, THOUGH. SOONER OR LATER, EVIL POISON DEADPOOL IS GONNA TAKE OVER.
SO SHUT UP AND LISTEN FOR A MINUTE.
WE THOUGHT STRANGE HAD BEEN SUMMONING US TO STOP THE POISONS FROM ERADICATING VENOMS...
...BUT THE TRUTH IS WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT--WORSE THAN EVEN STRANGE KNEW, I BET.
YOU THINK THIS IS THE WAR? IT'S NOT. IT'S JUST PART OF SOMETHING MUCH, MUCH BIGGER.


THE POISONS FIGURED OUT THEY WERE THE PERFECT HOSTS FOR SYMBIOTES.
BUT THEY DON'T WANT A *SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP*. LIKE ANY OTHER PREDATOR, THEY WANT TO BE THE *TOP* OF THE FOOD CHAIN.
THEY'RE NOT LIKE US. FOR THEM, TAKING A SYMBIOTE IS NO DIFFERENT THAN PUTTING ON A BADASS SUIT OF ARMOR.

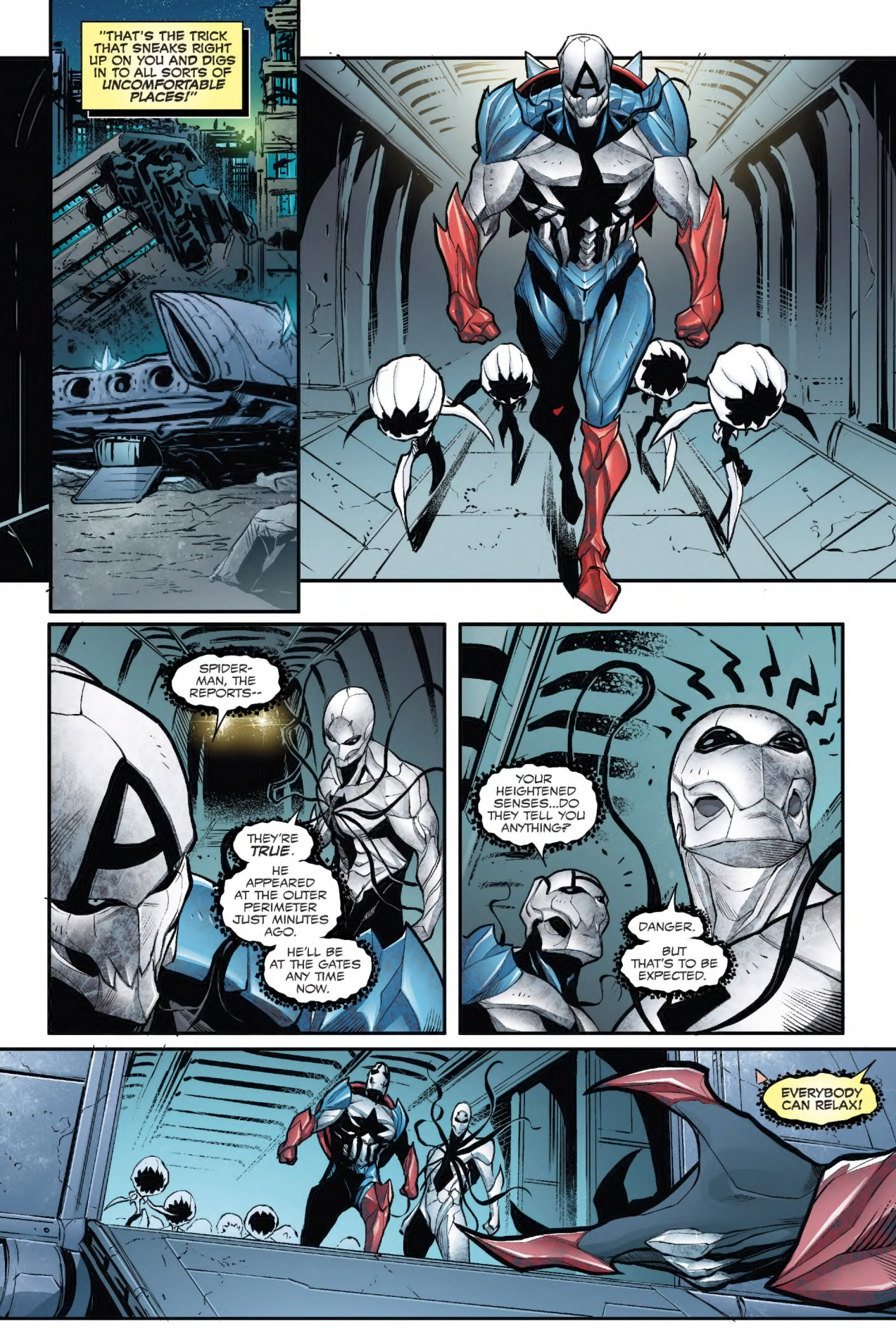

"BUT ONCE STRANGE STARTED SUMMONING *MORE*, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, ALL WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES THE POISONS HAD NEVER *SEEN* BEFORE, THERE WAS NO GOING BACK.
"THEY STOPPED CARING ABOUT CAP'S LITTLE RESISTANCE LONG AGO. YOU'RE ALL TASTY TREATS, BUT *STRANGE* WAS THE REAL PRIZE.
"SURE THEY'RE COMING FOR THE REST OF YOU--*HARD*--BUT THAT WON'T BE NEARLY ENOUGH.

"THEY'RE SO CLOSE TO *ERADICATING* YOU AND *TURNING* STRANGE THAT THEY'RE STARTING TO *FRENZY* LIKE SHARKS IN CHUMMED WATERS.
"EVENTUALLY, STRANGE WILL BREAK, AND THEY'LL USE HIM TO SUMMON AS MANY SOUPED-UP SYMBIOTES AS POSSIBLE.

"SOONER OR LATER, THEY'LL HAVE ALL THE SYMBIOTES THEY COULD EVER NEED.
"WHEN THAT HAPPENS, DO YOU THINK THEY'RE JUST GONNA *RELAX?*
"NoOoOoO. THEY'LL START BRANCHING OUT, AND THEN THEY'LL USE THE SYMBIOTES AS *WEAPONS* AGAINST ANYONE WHO GETS IN THEIR WAY.
"AND YOU'LL ALL BE TOO *DEAD* TO STOP THEM."


YOU GUYS ARE THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE.
WHICH IS... PRETTY SAD, IF YOU STOP TO THINK ABOUT IT.

I'M HERE TO GIVE YOU ALL ONE LAST BITE AT THE OL' POISON APPLE.
YOU GUYS WANT INTO POISON HQ? I CAN DO THAT.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STAGE A FULL-SCALE RAID, RESCUE STRANGE, AND GET AWAY WITH YOUR... HEH...SKINS.
CARNAGE IS TOUGH, SURE...BUT HE'LL GO DOWN IF WE THROW ENOUGH BODIES AT HIM.
YOU WANNA BE FIRST IN LINE, BROTHER?
SIGH
SURE.
HKK--
WHY NOT?
SEE?
THAT'S THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, HAYSEED.


"THAT'S THE TRICK THAT SNEAKS RIGHT UP ON YOU AND DIGS IN TO ALL SORTS OF *UNCOMFORTABLE PLACES!*"
SPIDER-MAN, THE REPORTS--
THEY'RE *TRUE*. HE APPEARED AT THE OUTER PERIMETER JUST MINUTES AGO.
HE'LL BE AT THE GATES ANY TIME NOW.
YOUR HEIGHTENED SENSES...DO THEY TELL YOU ANYTHING?
DANGER.
BUT THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED.
EVERYBODY CAN RELAX!

I'VE RETURNED FROM THE HEART OF *VENOM CENTRAL!*
THEY PUT UP A HELLUVA FIGHT...
...BUT I SHOWED THEM WHO'S BOSS. AND *LOOK!*
I BROUGHT US BACK A NICE NEW FRIEND TO *DISSECT!*
TO BE CONTINUED...

DON'T MISS THE EPIC CONCLUSION!

# VENOMVERSE

AN OROBOROS
RELEASE - DCP